

## Hunt

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medicine but abandoned this subject for chemistry, which he first studied at Yale University as an assistant to Benjamin Silliman, Jr. In 1847 he was appointed chemist and mineralogist of the geological survey of Canada. During the twenty-five years he held this joint position he made many chemical-geological reports of fundamental importance and published several articles of a speculative character. He taught chemistry in Laval University, Quebec, from 1856 to 1862, giving his lectures in French, and in McGill University, Montreal, from 1862 to 1868. During this period (1847-62), particularly about 1850, he expounded by reviews and translations the views of Laurent and Gerhardt on atoms and molecules and supplemented the speculations of these eminent French chemists by publishing his own ideas on theoretical chemistry—especially on diatomic molecules of gaseous elements and on the structure of compounds of the water type. In this latter field he anticipated the views of the English chemist Williamson and the French chemist Wurtz. Indeed he often turned his brilliant mind into theoretical fields and throughout his life was usually on the skirmish line. He anticipated Schönbein in the interpretation of the origin of nitrites and nitrates in nature, and Dumas in his researches on the equivalent volumes of liquids and solids. Always interested in organic chemistry, he published an "Introduction to Organic Chemistry" in the 1852 edition of Silliman's *First Principles of Chemistry* in which he defined organic chemistry, perhaps for the first time, as "the chemistry of the compounds of carbon." In 1872 he was appointed professor of geology in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, resigning, however, in 1878 to devote his entire time to expert work and literary pursuits. Meanwhile, in 1877, he had married, but finding that marriage interfered with his career, he and his wife decided to live apart. He published about one hundred and sixty scientific articles, chiefly in the *American Journal of Science*. He wrote several books dealing with chemistry and geology, the best known being *Chemical and Geological Essays* (1875, 1878); *Special Report on the Trap Dykes and Azoic Rocks of Southeastern Pennsylvania* (1878); *Mineral Physiology and Physiography* (1886); *A New Basis for Chemistry: A Chemical Philosophy* (1887), and *Systematic Mineralogy* (1891). He was conspicuous among the chemists who attended the Priestley Centennial at Northumberland, Pa., 1874, where he read a paper entitled "A Century's Progress in Chemical Theory." He was president of many scientific societies, was elected a fellow of the Royal

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Society of London in 1859, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences in 1873.

[James Douglas, memoir in *Proc. Am. Phil. Soc., Memorial Vol. No. 1* (1900); *Am. Jour. of Sci.*, Mar. 1892; Persifer Frazer, article in the *Am. Geologist*, Jan. 1893; J. C. K. Laflamme, *Le Docteur Thos. Sterry Hunt* (1892); *Jour. Am. Chem. Soc.*, Aug. 20, 1926; E. F. Smith, *Chemistry in America* (1914); G. P. Merrill, *The First One Hundred Years of Am. Geology* (1924); the *Am. Chemist*, Aug., Sept., Dec. 1874; T. B. Wyman, *Geneal. of the Name and Family of Hunt* (1862-63); *N. Y. Times*, Feb. 13, 1892.] L. C. N.

**HUNT, WARD** (June 14, 1810-Mar. 24, 1886), justice of the United States Supreme Court, was born in Utica, N. Y., the son of Montgomery and Elizabeth (Stringham) Hunt, and a descendant of Thomas Hunt who resided in Stamford, Conn., in 1650. His father was for many years cashier of the First National Bank of Utica. He attended the Oxford and Geneva academies in both of which he was a classmate of Horatio Seymour. At seventeen he entered Hamilton College but transferred to Union College where he graduated with honors in 1828. After a period of study in the law school at Litchfield, Conn., he returned to Utica and entered the office of Judge Hiram Denio. He was admitted to the bar in 1831 but his health broke down and necessitated his spending the winter in the South. On his return he entered a law partnership with Judge Denio and soon had an extensive practice. In 1838 he was elected as a Jacksonian Democrat to the New York Assembly from Oneida County and served one term. He opposed the annexation of Texas and the extension of slavery. He served as mayor of Utica in 1844. As the slavery controversy increased in bitterness Hunt abandoned his earlier affiliations and actively supported the candidacy of Van Buren and Adams on the Free-Soil ticket in 1848. He helped organize the Republican party in New York in 1856, was a zealous supporter of its policies, and was actively considered by the Republican caucus in Albany in 1857 as a candidate for the United States Senate.

Hunt had early ambitions for judicial office. In the late forties he ran for the supreme court of the state but was defeated, owing, it is alleged, to the opposition of the Irish vote which was antagonistic because of his successful defense of a policeman who had been charged with the murder of an Irishman. Again in 1853 he ran on the Democratic ticket for the same office, but his political deflection to the Free-Soilers five years earlier brought about his defeat. In 1865 he ran as a Republican for the court of appeals, to succeed his former partner, Judge Denio, and was elected. Three years later he became chief judge of that tribunal and remained as commis-



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sioner of appeals under the judicial reorganization effected by constitutional amendment in 1869. In the autumn of 1872 he was nominated by President Grant to the associate justiceship on the Supreme Court left vacant by the resignation of Justice Samuel Nelson, and he took his seat on Jan. 9, 1873. He never returned to the bench after the Court's adjournment for recess on Dec. 23, 1878. Early in January 1879 he suffered a paralytic stroke affecting his right side. He recovered slowly, but never completely, and remained an invalid until his death. In spite of his physical condition he did not resign from the Court until Congress by special act of Jan. 27, 1882, extended to him the benefits of the act of 1869 which permitted federal judges to retire on full pay at the age of seventy years after ten years of service. The special act was introduced and sponsored by Hunt's former colleague on the bench, Senator David Davis. Hunt had not served ten years; he had in fact served only six years, and in the debates on the bill to pension him he was sharply criticized for having continued in office so long after becoming unfit to perform his judicial duties (*Congressional Record*, 47 Cong., 1 Sess., pp. 505, 612-18). The act itself made the grant of Hunt's pension conditional upon his resigning within thirty days. He resigned on the day of its enactment.

Hunt was not a conspicuous member of the Supreme Court and his name is not associated with any outstanding decision or doctrine. He was, however, a hard-working and an able judge, and his decisions, though not brilliantly written, are clear and represent careful research. He wrote the opinion of the Court in 149 cases, only eight of which related to constitutional problems. He wrote four dissenting opinions and dissented without opinion in eighteen cases. He was married twice: to Mary Ann Savage, of Salem, N. Y., in 1837, who bore him a son and a daughter; and to Maria Taylor of Albany in 1853.

[Hunt's opinions are found from 15 *Wallace* to 98 *U. S. Reports*. For a memorandum on his resignation and an obituary notice see 105 *U. S.*, ix-x, and 118 *U. S.*, 701. Other sources include: M. M. Bagg, *Memorial Hist. of Utica, N. Y.* (1891); H. L. Carson, *The Supreme Court of the U. S.: Its Hist.* (1892), vol. II; David McAdam and others, *Hist. of the Bench and Bar of N. Y.* (1897), vol. I; D. S. Alexander, *A Pol. Hist. of the State of N. Y.*, vol. II (1906), vol. III (1909); T. B. Wyman, *Geneal. of the Name and Family of Hunt* (1862-63); C. E. Fitch, *Encyc. of Biog. of N. Y.* (1916); *N. Y. Times, N. Y. Tribune*, Mar. 25, 1886.]

R. E. C.

**HUNT, WASHINGTON** (Aug. 5, 1811-Feb. 2, 1867), governor of the state of New York, son of Sanford and Fanny (Rose) Hunt, was born at Windham, N. Y. He was descended from Jonathan Hunt, who moved from Connecti-

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cut to Northampton, Mass., about 1660. In 1818 his parents moved to Portage, N. Y., where he attended common school. In 1828 he moved to Lockport and two years later he took up the study of law. He was admitted to the bar in 1834. In 1836 he became the first county judge of the newly organized Niagara County and in a comparatively short time was recognized as one of the political leaders in the western section of his state. Although early in his career he had been a Democrat, he was led to join the Whigs and in 1842 he was elected to Congress. He served continuously until 1849, and in the Thirtieth Congress he was chairman of the committee on commerce. Opposed to human servitude and political proscription in every form, he severely criticized President Tyler because he believed Tyler labored zealously for the extension of slavery in the Southwest. In 1849, thanks to the efforts of Thurlow Weed, for many years Hunt's intimate friend and political backer, Hunt was chosen comptroller of the state of New York. The following year, by 262 votes, he defeated Horatio Seymour for the governorship of the state.

Hunt's administration as governor was far from brilliant. Personally honest, and scrupulous in the performance of his duties, he was not always tactful and as a consequence he became a party to a legislative squabble regarding the Erie Canal. When in 1852 Seymour defeated him for reelection he retired to his farm near Lockport. His interest in politics, however, did not cease and in 1856 he was chosen temporary chairman of the last national Whig convention. His refusal to ally himself with the rising Republican party, largely on the ground that it was a sectional organization, led to his estrangement with Weed. In 1860 he served as chairman of the Constitutional Union convention at Richmond, Va., which nominated Bell and Everett, he himself declining the nomination for the vice-presidency. He was also influential in fusing the Douglas-Bell electoral tickets in New York. In the presidential campaign of 1864 he was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention and offered a resolution calling for a convention of the states, which was defeated in committee. He strongly opposed the reelection of Lincoln and in return was severely criticized by the Republican press. His last appearance on the political stage was in 1866 as a delegate to the National Union Convention. Personally Hunt was very well liked and possessed a wide circle of friends. In 1834 he married Mary Hosmer Walbridge, daughter of Henry Walbridge of Ithaca, N. Y. He was a lifelong member of the Protestant



jects and Method of Mineralogy"; but these philosophical studies have been only incidental to his labors in chemical mineralogy and chemical geology. Hunt's researches into the chemical and mineral composition of rocks have probably been more extended than those of any other contemporary scientist. The names Laurentian and Huronian, applied to the earliest known rocks on this continent, were given by him to the two subdivisions of the Eozoic period. From his long series of investigations of the lime and magnesia salts he was enabled to explain for the first time the true relations of gypsums and dolomites, and to explain their origin by direct deposition. His views on this subject have found a wide recognition among geologists. The phenomena of volcanoes and igneous rocks have been discussed by him from a new point of view, and he has revived and enforced the almost forgotten hypothesis that the source of these is to be found in chemical reactions. He has also sought to harmonize the facts of dynamical geology with the theory of a solid globe. His views on these questions will be found in an essay on "The Chemistry of the Earth" in the report of the Smithsonian institution for 1869, while his conclusions on many points of geology are embodied in his address delivered as retiring president before the American association for the advancement of science at Indianapolis in 1871. He was the first to make known the deposits of phosphates of lime in Canada, and to call attention to its commercial value as a fertilizer. The chemical and geological relations of petroleum have been carefully investigated by him, and he has studied in detail the salt deposits of Ontario. During the later years of his connection with the geological survey of Canada, its administrative details were under his charge. During 1875-'6 he was connected with the geological survey of Pennsylvania. In 1859 he invented a permanent green ink, which has been very extensively used, and gave the name of "greenback" currency to the bills which were printed with it. He is a popular speaker on scientific subjects, and has delivered two courses of lectures before the Lowell institute in Boston. He served on juries at the world's fair in Paris in 1855 and in 1867, being made an officer of the legion of honor on the latter occasion, and was also one of the judges at the world's fair in Philadelphia in 1876. The degree of LL. D. was given to him by McGill in 1857, that of Sc. D. by Laval in 1858, and that of LL. D. by Cambridge, England, in 1881. He is a member of many societies, and, besides having held the presidency of the American association for the advancement of science in 1871, has filled a like office in the American institute of mining engineers in 1877, in the American chemical society in 1880, and in the Royal society of Canada in 1884. In 1876 he organized, in concert with American and European geologists, the International geological congress, and was made secretary at its first meeting, held in Paris in 1878, and vice-president at the meeting held in Bologna, Italy, in 1881. He was elected a member of the National academy of sciences in 1873, and in 1859 a fellow of the Royal society of London. His bibliography includes upward of 200 titles of separate papers that have appeared in reports of the geological

according to a Natural System."

**HUNT, Timothy Atwater**, naval officer, b. in New Haven, Conn., in 1805; d. there, 21 Jan., 1884. He was educated at Yale, entered the navy as midshipman in 1825, became lieutenant in 1836, commander in 1855, captain in 1862, commodore in 1863, and was retired in 1877. He commanded the supply ship "Electra" in the Mexican war, the "Narragansett" at the beginning of the civil war, in 1861, and was then attached to the Pacific squadron. He was ordered home in 1863, and was inspector of ordnance till 1867, when he was assigned to special duty at New London, Conn. From 1870 till his retirement he was on the reserved list, residing in New Haven, Conn.

**HUNT, Ward**, jurist, b. in Utica, N. Y., 14 June, 1810; d. in Washington, D. C., 24 March, 1886. He was graduated at Union in 1828, studied law in Litchfield, Conn., and practised his profession for many years in Utica, N. Y., where he was mayor in 1844. He was a member of the New York legislature in 1839, but took little interest in politics, and devoted himself to jurisprudence. In 1865 he was elected to the New York court of appeals, and in 1872 he was appointed associate justice of the U. S. supreme court. For the next few years he was allotted to the second circuit, including New York, Connecticut, and Vermont. The failure of his health induced congress in 1882 to grant his retirement on a pension. Union and Rutgers colleges gave him the degree of LL. D.

**HUNT, Washington**, governor of New York, b. in Windham, N. Y., 5 Aug., 1811; d. in New York city, 2 Feb., 1867. He received a common-school education, began to study law at the age of eighteen, and was admitted to the bar in 1834 at Lockport, N. Y., where he began practice. In 1836 he was appointed first judge of Niagara county. He was elected to congress as a Whig in 1842, and twice re-elected, serving from 4 Dec., 1843, to 3 March, 1849. In 1849 he was elected comptroller of the state, and in 1850 was chosen governor, defeating Horatio Seymour, the Democratic candidate. In 1852 he was again a candidate for the governorship, but was beaten by Seymour. He then retired to his farm near Lockport. In 1856 he was temporary chairman of the Whig national convention, which was the last one ever held. After the dissolution of the party he became a Democrat, and in 1860 was tendered the Democratic nomination for vice-president of the United States, but declined. He was a delegate to the Chicago convention in 1864, and to the National union convention of 1866. Mr. Hunt was prominent in the counsels of the Protestant Episcopal church, and a frequent delegate to its conventions.—His brother, **Edward Bissell**, military engineer, b. in Livingston county, N. Y., 15 June, 1822; d. in Brooklyn, N. Y., 2 Oct., 1863, was graduated at the U. S. military academy in 1845, entered the corps of engineers, was commissioned as 2d lieutenant in December, 1845, and was employed as assistant professor of civil and military engineering at West Point in 1846-'9, afterward in the coast survey, and in the construction of fortifications and lighthouses. He became a captain on 1 July, 1859, while engaged in the construction of defensive works at Key West, and was instrumental in pre-

*Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography*



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**Hunt, Jonathan.**—He represented the State of Vermont in Congress from 1827 to 1832, serving on the Committee on Public Lands, and died at Washington, May 14 of the latter year. He was a graduate of Dartmouth College in 1807.

**Hunt, Samuel.**—He was a Representative in Congress from New Hampshire from 1802 to 1805.

**Hunt, Theodore G.**—He was born in South Carolina, and was a Representative in the Thirty-third Congress from Louisiana.

**Hunt, Ward.**—He was born in Utica, New York, June 14, 1810, and has always resided in his native place. He graduated at Union College in 1828, and turning his attention to law attended the law lectures of Judge Gould at Litchfield, Connecticut. In 1865 he was elected a Judge of the Court of Appeals of the State of New York, which position he held until 1872, when he was appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Received from Union College and Rutgers College the degree of Doctor of Laws.

**Hunt, Washington.**—He was born in Windham, Greene County, New York, August 5, 1811. At the age of eighteen he entered upon the study of law, and was admitted to the bar at Lockport in 1834. In 1836 he was appointed first Judge of Niagara County, and was a Representative in Congress from 1843 to 1849, serving during his last term as Chairman of the Committee on Commerce. In 1849 he was elected Comptroller of New York, and in 1850 Governor of the State. He was temporary Chairman of the last "Whig National Convention" ever held, in 1856; and in 1860 he was tendered the nomination for the office of Vice-President, but he declined. Since that time he has lived in retirement upon a handsome farm near Lockport, dividing his attention between his friends, his books, and the pursuits of agriculture. He was a Delegate to the "Chicago Convention" in 1864, and to the Philadelphia "National Union Convention" of 1866. Died in New York city, February 2, 1867.

**Hunter, John.**—He was a Representative in Congress from South Carolina from 1793 to 1795, and a Senator in Congress from that State from 1795 to 1796.

**Hunter, John W.**—He was born in the village of Bedford, Kings County, New York (now within the limits of the city of Brooklyn), October 15, 1807; after devoting himself in various ways to measures which looked to the progress and advancement of his native city, he became identified with the New York Custom-House as clerk in 1831, and in 1837 as Assistant Auditor, in which position he continued until his resignation in 1865. In 1864 his name was forged to two checks for six thousand six hundred dollars and four thousand two hundred dollars, on the Assistant Treasurer of New York, and although a suit was instituted by that officer, the entire innocence of Mr. Hunter was triumphantly vindicated, and the Treasurer not only acknowledged his error in the premises, but out of his own pocket paid all the expenses of the trial. This was considered one of the most remarkable cases of the kind on record, and only tended to brighten the fair fame of the temporary victim. In 1865 he accepted the position of Secretary of a Banking Institution in Brooklyn; and

**Hunter, Morton C.**—He was born in Versailles, Ripley County, Indiana, February 5, 1825; went through a scientific course of studies in the Indiana State University; studied law and graduated as a lawyer at the above institution. In 1858 he was elected to the State Legislature; in 1860 he was a Presidential Elector; in 1852 he raised the Eighty-second Regiment of Indiana Volunteers, and as Colonel commanded it until the fall of Atlanta in 1864; he also had command of a brigade under General Sherman in his march to the sea, and continued with the Fourteenth Army Corps until its arrival in Washington. In March, 1865, he was brevetted a Brigadier-General; and in 1866 he was elected a Representative from Indiana to the Fortieth Congress, serving on the Committees on Territories and Mines and Mining. Re-elected to the Forty-third and Forty-fourth Congresses.

**Hunter, Naisworthy.**—He was a Delegate in Congress from the Territory of Mississippi from 1801 to 1802. Died March 11, 1802.

**Hunter, Robert M. T.**—He was born in Essex County, Virginia, April 21, 1809; was educated at the University of Virginia; adopted the profession of law, and came to the bar in 1830; served three years in the State Legislature; and was first elected a Representative in Congress from his native State in 1837, when he served two terms, and was re-elected in 1845, officiating during the Twenty-sixth Congress as Speaker. In 1847 he was elected a Senator in Congress for a long term, and re-elected for the term ending in 1859, serving as Chairman of the Committee on Finance, and as a member of the Committees on the Library, and on the Pacific Railroad. He was re-elected to the Senate in 1859 for another long term, but was expelled, July, 1861. He took part in the Rebellion as Secretary of State, and a member of Congress in the Rebel Government. After the Rebellion he was arrested as a prisoner of State, but released on his parole, and in 1867 he was pardoned by President Johnson.

**Hunter, Taliaferro.**—He was a native of Virginia, and in 1860 was appointed Fourth Auditor of the Treasury, which position he only held until 1861.

**Hunter, William.**—He was a Representative in Congress from Vermont from 1817 to 1819. He was also a member of the State Legislature in 1807 and 1809, and a State Councilor in 1809, 1814, and 1815.

**Hunter, William.**—Born in Newport, Rhode Island, November 23, 1775; graduated at Brown University in 1791; went to London and studied medicine, but soon changed to the law, and entered at the Inner Temple in London; and on his return to Newport, at the age of twenty-one, was admitted to the bar. In 1799 he was a Representative in the General Assembly of Rhode Island, and re-elected at different periods from that time to the year 1811, when he was chosen a Senator in Congress, and held his seat till 1821. His speeches, especially those on the acquisition of Florida, and the Missouri Compromise, won him a high reputation as a sagacious statesman and a finished orator. In 1824 he was Chargé to Brazil, an office which was, in 1842, raised to a full mission, and he was continued as Minister till 1845, when he retired from public life, and resided at Newport until his death, which occurred December 3, 1849.

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WARD HUNT

Born in Utica, New York, June 14, 1810

Died at Washington, District of Columbia, March 25, 1886.

Was the son of Montgomery Hunt, a conspicuous citizen and financier of Oneida county. He was educated at the local academy of Utica and at Union College, which he entered in his nineteenth year, graduating with honors. After leaving college he attended the famous law school of Judge Gould at Litchfield, Connecticut, taking the regular course, and later continued his legal studies in the office of Hiram Denio at Utica until his admission to the bar in 1831. He immediately commenced practice in Utica, and, through his father's connection with the Bank of Utica and his large circle of friends, he soon secured a considerable business. His professional career was further assured by his admission as junior partner into the law firm of Mr. Denio, which gave him a more than a respectable rank at the county bar, at the time distinguished for its eminent counsel. His duties in his early practice combined both those of attorney and advocate, with occasional opportunity to assist as counsel. His association with his senior, Mr. Denio, in the preparation of his briefs, fortifying them with citations and references, was of incalculable advantage. Thus rapidly maturing, Mr. Hunt at an early age in his practice acquired a reputation excelled only by the oldest lawyers in the county. He was engaged in the most important suits tried before the Supreme Court and the bench of Appeals at Albany.

He never took any active interest in politics. His earliest associations were with the democratic party, and in 1839 he served a single term in the legislature. Upon the formation of the republican party he became an adherent of that organization. In 1865 he was elected judge of the Court of Appeals by a large majority as the successor of his early instructor and long-time associate in practice, Judge Denio. Two years later he was promoted to the office of chief-judge of that court.

In 1872, Honorable Samuel Nelson having resigned his place as associate-judge, a vacancy occurred on the Supreme Bench of the United States. President Grant tendered the place to Chief-Judge Hunt. He took his seat January 7, 1873, and for six years bore a part in the proceedings of the supreme tribunal of the country. His circuit court allotments during the time were to the 2d circuit, including New York, Connecticut, and Vermont. Early in January, 1879, Justice Hunt was stricken with paralysis of the right side and for a few days his life was despaired of. He slowly regained his health, but not sufficiently to resume his judicial labors. In 1882 congress authorized his retirement on a pension. The remainder of his years was spent in retirement.



CLASS OF 1828

WARD HUNT

Ward Hunt was born in Utica, Oneida Co., New York, June 14, 1810. He studied in Oxford and Geneva Academies, and in his 17th year entered Union College, Schenectady. After graduation, he took the law course in the school of Judge James Gould at Litchfield, Conn., after which he returned to Utica, and entered the law office of Hiram Denio (Hon. LL.D., Union 1829), afterwards an eminent judge of the New York Court of Appeals. On 1821 he was admitted to the Bar and soon formed a partnership with Judge Denio. He soon gained professional notice, and before long took up political lines. He was elected to the State Supreme Court. In 1856 he passed from Democratic affiliation to the new Republican party, and in 1865 was elected Judge of the Court of Appeals, succeeding Judge Denio. In 1868 he became Chief Judge of this, the highest, State Court. Under the reorganization he became a Commissioner of Appeals, but resigned January 7, 1873, to take his seat as Associate Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States. Judge Hunt in the State Court was "urbane and courteous." He possessed an "even and well controlled temper," and so was able to well sustain "the dignity of his position."

Mr. Hunt was Mayor of Utica, 1844

Member of Assembly, 1838-39

Resigned as Associate Judge of the U.S. Supreme Court in 1882.

FROM Court and Lawyers of New York  
Alden Chester  
American Historical Society  
New York & Chicago 1925.

WARD E. HUNT, 1828, of Utica, N.Y., was a member of the Delphian Institute Society.  
Delphian Catalogue 1830 (Died: 1886)



WARD HUNT 1828

An extra Utica Gazette, just put into my hands, announces the defeat of its party at the recent charter election, and the election of the Democrat candidate for Mayor, Ward Hunt, Esq., by a majority of 21. The Democrats elect 7 of the 12 Alderman, and several of the minor officers. The abolition vote for Mayor was 70. The vote polled was about 1870--a very heavy vote.

From: A clipping in Professor Pearson's Scrap Book

37 Ward E. Hunt, B.A., '28; LL.D., '70 (Rutgers '74). Born, Utica, N. Y., June 14, 1810. Oxford and Geneva (N. Y.) academies. Union College, 1827-'28; law student, Litchfield, Conn., 1828-'31. Lawyer, Utica, N. Y. Member N. Y. State Assembly, 1839. Mayor Utica, 1844. Judge N. Y. Court of Appeals, 1865-'72. Associate Justice U. S. Supreme Court, 1872-'82. Died, Washington, D. C., March 24, 1886.

Kappa Alpha cat. 1941



Ward Hunt, associate justice of the U.S. supreme court, was born at Utica, N.Y., June 14, 1810. His father was Montgomery Hunt, for many years cashier of the Bank of Utica, and his mother a daughter of Capt. Joseph Stringham of New York city. The son studied at Hamilton College, N.Y., but was graduated from Union College, N.Y. in 1828. He attended the legal lectures of Judge Gould at Litchfield, Conn., and continued his study with Judge Hiram Denio, afterward judge of the court of appeals of the state of New York. He became Judge Denio's partner in law-practice and was his successor on the same bench. In 1838 he was chosen to the New York state assembly, and served for a single term. In 1844 he was elected mayor of Utica. In the political excitements of the time he took ground with that wing of the democratic party which opposed the annexation of Texas by the United States and the extension of slavery, and in 1848 had a leading part in the movement for free-soil which selected as the nominees of its party Van Buren and Adams. Later, with others, he broke away from old ties and became a prime mover in the formation of the republican party. In 1865 he was elected by a majority of 32,000 to succeed Judge Denio upon the bench of the New York state court of appeals, and became chief judge of the court in 1868. This tribunal having been reconstructed under a constitutional amendment, Judge Hunt was retained as commissioner of appeals, which position he resigned Jan. 7, 1873, to accept his place as one of the justices of the supreme court of the United States, to which office he had been appointed by President Grant on the 11th December next preceding. In 1883, owing to a failure in health he resigned his judgeship. He had a generous culture, and was in all relations singularly self-poised. He was faithful to his principles and devoted to his friends. He excelled in judgement and solidity of acquirements, rather than in brilliancy. Judge Hunt's accomplishments moreover, extended beyond his profession, for he kept his eyes open to the world of letters and affairs, as well as the narrower sphere of practice and politics. He was a communicant in the Protestant Episcopal church, and often sat in its conventions. As a thinker he was clear and logical; as a public speaker he was deliberate and convinced by argument rather than captivated by sentiment or ornament. On the bench no man labored with more patience and earnest zeal for justice than he. His decisions are simple in diction, forcible in statement, and exhaustive in their treatment of the cases at issue. Both Union and Rutgers colleges gave him the degree of LL.D. He died at Washington, D.C., March 24, 1886.



1828   Ward Hunt

From: Oxford Academy Jubilee  
Aug. 1 & 2, 1854

An Oration was delivered by Hon. Ward Hunt, of Utica ( a student in 1822. A copy of Mr. Hunt's address has not been found. The Oxford Times of August 9, 1854, thus speaks of it: "Hon. Ward Hunt, of Utica, delivered the Oration. It was characteristic of the scholar and the enlightened observer of passing events--dwelling upon those features in the development and progress of society, which furnish material for philosophical deductions."

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Christian Science Monitor  
Class 1828

by

Joseph R. Brown, Jr. '03

Date: Oct 24, 1958

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## Tried in 1873

Charged with the crime of voting illegally, Susan B. Anthony was brought to trial on June 17, 1873, in the peaceful village of Canandaigua, New York. As she stoically climbed the courthouse steps she felt as if on her shoulders she carried the political destiny of American women.

In the courtroom, seated behind the bar, she watched the curious crowd gather and fill every available seat. She wondered as she surveyed the all-male jury whether they could possibly understand the humiliation of a woman who had been arrested for exercising the rights of a citizen. The Judge, Ward Hunt, had recently been appointed through the influence of Roscoe Conkling, a bitter opponent of woman suffrage.

As she listened to her counsel's presentation of her case, she was completely satisfied. He claimed that she had voted in good faith, believing that the United States Constitution gave her the right to vote and he declared that she stood arraigned as a criminal simply because she took the only step possible to bring this great constitutional question before the courts.

The District Attorney, on the other hand, argued that whatever her intentions may have been, she had by her voting violated a law of the United States and therefore was guilty of crime. Then Judge Hunt addressed the jury, directing them to find a verdict of guilty. Immediately her counsel moved for a new trial on the grounds that her right to a trial by jury had been denied by Judge Hunt's failure to poll the jury.

Popular opinion was with him, the New York Sun pointing out that Judge Hunt by his failure to poll the jury had violated one of the most important provisions of the Constitution of the United States. Judge Hunt, however, denied the motion for a new trial and pronounced sentence, a fine of \$100 and the costs of prosecution. To this Susan B. Anthony countered, "May it please your honor, I shall never pay a dollar of this unjust penalty."

Tersely Judge Hunt replied that the Court would not require imprisonment pending the payment of her fine. This shrewd move, obviously planned in advance, made it impossible to carry the case to the Supreme Court of the United States by writ of habeas corpus.

Susan B. Anthony had hoped for a court decision which would establish women's right to vote as citizens and she did not give up hope until the Supreme Court's adverse decision in the case of Virginia Minor of St. Louis who had brought suit against an election inspector for refusing to register her as a voter. By the ruling in the Virginia Minor case, women were shut out of the Constitution as voting citizens and denied the protection of the Fourteenth Amendment.

From then on there was only one course to follow, to press again for a federal woman suffrage amendment. To this end Susan B. Anthony devoted her life, but it remained for those who came after to win the victory, 45 years later in 1920, when the Nineteenth Amendment conferred the right to vote on women throughout the United States.

A biography entitled "Susan B. Anthony: Rebel, Crusader, Humanitarian" by Alma Lutz will be published by Beacon Press, Inc., Boston, on Feb. 15.



HUNT, WARD E.

Graduated from Union College 1828 - A.B. degree

The following information regarding Ward Hunt was taken from Union College Student Records, First Term 1827-1828 to Second Term 1828-1829, in which he is listed as No. 68:

Academic Year 1827-1828 - Senior Year

	<u>First Term</u> <u>Ending December</u> Examination	<u>Second Term</u> <u>Ending April</u> Examination	<u>Third Term</u> <u>Ending July</u> Examination
Attendance	100%	92%	
Conduct	100	100	
Natural Philosophy	85	80	
Chemistry	90	90	
Kames	90		
Elements of Criticism		90	
Anatomy			80%
Physiology			80
Virgil			100



## CLASS OF 1828

### WARD HUNT

Washington, March 24, 1886.---The Hon. Ward Hunt, ex-associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, died at four o'clock this morning, in the 76th year of his age, at his house, No. 1733 De Sales Street. About six years ago Mr. Hunt had a paralytic stroke which so completely disabled him for the time that he was unable to sign a request for his retirement. In a few months he was retired, and to some extent regained the use of his right side. During the years of his retirement he has spent his summers at his native place, Utica, and his winters here. While he has been an invalid for years past, his death, this morning, was unexpected. The immediate cause, his physician, Dr. Baxter, states, was intermittent fever, but his death was really the result of old age, and the stroke of paralysis. He leaves a wife, who is much prostrate by this affliction. The numerous friends of the family in this city testified their regard to-day by calling at the house to express sympathy. Chief Justice Waite was one of the earliest callers. Justice Hunt leaves two children, Ward Hunt and Mrs. Johnston, both of Utica. They have been summoned, and upon their arrival the time of the funeral will be fixed. The interment will take place at Utica.

Mr. Justice Hunt was born in Utica, June 14, 1810, and has always resided in his native place. He graduated from Union College in 1828, and turning his attention to law he attended the law lectures at Litchfield, Conn. In 1855 he was elected a judge of the Court of Appeals of the State of New York, which position he held until 1872, when he was appointed a justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. He ~~xxx~~ received from Union College and Rutgers College the degree of Doctor of Laws.

Washington County Obituaries

Vol 2 p. 486

(A collection of newspaper obituaries in the  
N. Y. State Library, Albany)

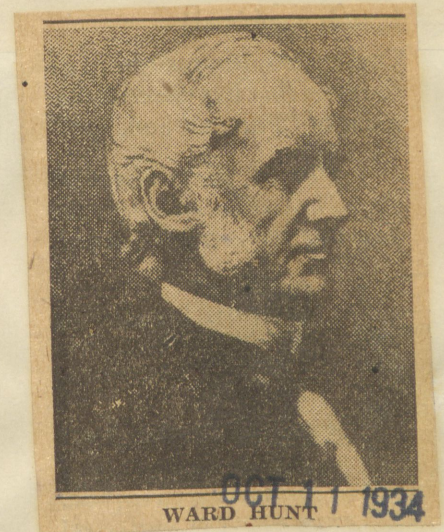


Ward Hunt, LL.D., lawyer, died at Washington, D. C., March 1886. He was a member of the New York State Assembly in '38; Judge of the Court of Appeals in '65; and Judge of the U. S. Supreme Court from '72 to '82.

Oct. 1886. C.

*neurology '83-'86* WARD HUNT, '28, Feb. 24, 21

was born in Utica, June 14, 1810. After graduation, he studied law in Litchfield, Conn., and in Utica; was admitted to the bar in 1831 and soon won a lucrative practice. He was twice nominated for the Supreme Court Judgeship, but failed, once through having successfully defended a policeman who had killed an Irishman while arresting him, and again through his change of political opinions. The Jacksonian Democrats elected him to the Assembly in 1838, but he became a Free-soiler; hence, his latter defeat. He joined the newly organized Republican party and in 1865 was elected by over 31,000 votes to the Court of Appeals. He filled this position with great ability, and on reorganization of the Court he entered the Commission of Appeals. In 1872, he was made Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States and resigned in 1882 through failing health. Both Rutgers and Union conferred on him an LL. D. He was twice married. He died in Washington, D. C., in March, 1886, leaving a widow and three children.



\*WARD HUNT,

Washington, D. C.

Born at Utica, N. Y., June 14, 1810. A.B. (Union, 1828). LL.D. (Union, 1870). Member, N. Y. Assembly, 1839. Mayor, Utica, N. Y., 1844. Judge, N. Y. Court of Appeals, 1865-72. Associate Justice, U. S. Supreme Court, 1872-82. Died, March 24, 1886. *LL.D. Rutgers - 1874*

*Rutgers Cat. p. 357.*

*HOBART* (Hon.)\* Ward Hunt.

*HOBART 1828*

Utica, Union '28, LL.D. '70. Law. Legis. N. Y. '39, Mayor of Utica '44, Judge N. Y. Court of Appeals '65, Assoc. Just. Sup. Court U. S. '73. Engloss. K.A. B. Utica, June 14, 1810, d. Washington, D. C., April 1, '86.

HUNT, Ward E., Union 1828.

Names of wives:

Married Mary Ann Savage of Salem, N.Y., 1837  
Maria Taylor of Albany, N.Y., 1853

*From Samuel H. Fisher, Litchfield, Conn.*



1828    WARD HUNT:

Married: In Utica, on the 8th inst. by the Rev. Mr. Mandeville, Ward Hunt, esq., counsellor at law, to Mary Ann, eldest daughter of the Hon. John Savage, all of Utica.--Daily Albany Argus, Nov. 14, 1837.

1828    Ward Hunt

Non-graduate Hamilton College, 1828  
Hamilton College Alumni Register, 1812-1922.

WARD HUNT '28

Hon. Ward Hunt, of Utica, has been nominated by the Democracy of the Fifth Judicial District as a candidate for Justice of the Supreme Court. This is in every respect an excellent nomination. Mr. Hunt is possessed of a clear and discriminating mind, is thoroughly schooled in his profession, and has already attained a distinguished position at the bar of Oneida county, which numbers among its members the highest legal talents in the State. If elected, he will make a most judicious and capable public officer.--

From: Daily Knickerbocker      Nov. 1, 1853  
Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book    p. 19.

WARD HUNT, B.A., '28, LL.D., '70 (Rutgers '74).

Born, Utica, N. Y., June 14, 1810. Prepared for college, Oxford and Geneva (N. Y.) Academies. Student, Union College, 1827-'28; law student, Litchfield, Conn., 1828-'31. Lawyer, Utica, N. Y. Member New York State Assembly, 1839. Mayor Utica, 1844. Judge New York Court of Appeals, 1865-'72. Associate Justice United States Supreme Court, 1872-'82.

Died, Washington, D. C., March 24, 1886.

From: Kappa Alpha in Union College  
1825-1913



Son of Montgomery and Eliza (Stringham) Hunt.  
Born in Utica, N.Y., June 14, 1810.  
Died in Washington, D.C., March 25, 1886.

He graduated at Union College in 1828. From both his college and Rutgers College, New Jersey, he received the degree of LL.D. He had been Mayor of Utica and a member of the New York Legislature. In 1865 he was elected a judge of the Court of Appeals of the State, which position he held until 1872 when he was appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. This position he resigned a few years before his death on account of his failing health. He married (1) November 8, 1837, Mary Ann, daughter of John Savage, of Salem, N.Y., born April 1, 1819, and died May 18, 1846. The second Mrs. Hunt was Maria, daughter of James Taylor, of Albany, married June 18, 1853. Justice Hunt married third, Elizabeth, the daughter of Commodore Ridgeley, of Baltimore.

Three children by the first marriage:

1. Eliza, b. Oct. 5, 1838; m. Arthur B. Johnson, of Utica, N.Y.
2. John Savage, b. Dec. 9, 1839, holds a commission in the Fourth Regiment of U.S. Artillery.
3. Ward, Jr., b. Sept. 5, 1843, of Utica, N.Y.

Edward Jessup & His Descendants

p. 386

Henry Griswold Jessup  
Cambridge. 1887.



Candidate for U.S.Senate:

(The Legislature of 1857 had to elect a U.S.Senator to succeed Hamilton Fish whose term expired on the 4th of March.)

Prominent among the aspirants were Ward Hunt, James S. Wadsworth, and David Dudley Field.

Hunt, who was destined to occupy a place on the Court of Appeals , and, subsequently, on the Supreme Court of the United States, had taken little interest in politics. He belonged to the Democratic party, and, in 1839, had served one term in the Assembly; but his consistent devotion to Free-soilism, and his just and almost prescient appreciation of the true principles of the Republican party, gave him great prominence in the ranks of the young organization and created a strong desire to send him to the United States Senate. Hunt was anxious and Wadsworth active. The latter's supporters, standing for him as their candidate for governor, had forced the agreement of the year before, and they now demanded that he become senator; but in the interest of harmony, both finally withdrew in favour of David Dudley Field.

A Political History of the State of New York  
v. 2 p. 244  
DeAlva Stanwood Alexander  
Henry Holt & Co.  
New York 1906.



NUMBER FIVE EIGHTY ONE  
COMMERCIAL STREET  
PROVINCETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

November 14, 1947.

Union College,  
Schenectady, N. Y.

Gentlemen;-

I am working on a biography of  
Ward Hunt for the United States Supreme  
Court Library. He was born in Utica, N. Y.  
1810, graduated from Union College (Law) in  
1832, went to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1873,  
and died in 1886

He received an Honorary L L D from Union  
College some time in his career. Can you  
give me the date and citation made when it  
was conferred?

If you could give any information about  
his college career and graduation it would  
be ~~help~~ful in making this record and your  
help will be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

*Montgomery H. Johnson*  
Montgomery H. Johnson

A. B. 1828

L L. D. 1870



Nov. 29, 1947

Mr. Montgomery H. Johnson  
581 Commercial Street  
Provincetown, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

In re: your inquiry - WARD HUNT

Ward Hunt was graduated from Union College in 1828 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. (Please note it was not "law" as you state). He studied law at Utica with Hiram Denis, 1829-30, and at the Litchfield Law School, 1830-31.

He received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) from Union College in 1870. We are unable to give you the citation. As you probably know, Rutgers awarded him the same degree. Before coming to Union, Ward Hunt had attended Hamilton College.

We have sketches of his career from "Court and Lawyers of New York" by Alden Chester; "Edward Jessup & His Descendants" by Henry G. Jessup; "A Political History of the State of New York" by D. S. Alexander; as well as from the more familiar N.C. of A.B.

If some one of these is not available to you, we can have the sketch copied.

Sincerely yours,

Asst. Sec'y



1828

Recd. Mar. 16, 1855

To Ward Hunt

of the Class that graduated at Union College, in the year 1828

(or, if deceased, to the friend or relative who knew him best :)

SIR,—

It is the aim of the subscriber, in collecting the information asked for by the following questions, to obtain materials for a concise Biographical Catalogue of the Trustees, Presidents, Professors and Tutors of Union College ;—of those who have received Honorary Degrees from it, and of all who have ever entered that Institution, whether Graduates or not.

That such a work would be interesting and useful to the Alumni, will not be denied ; but whether it be practicable, will depend chiefly upon the ready aid which they shall impart. This circular will be sent to every Graduate whose residence is known, (or, if deceased, to some near connection,) and it is confidently expected that no one will neglect to return it in due time, with as full information as circumstances will allow :—some of the questions, indeed, it may not be possible to answer with certainty ; others not at all : still, it is hoped that no important facts will be withheld because of their fewness.

Death has removed the twenty-four original Trustees, the first three Presidents, the early Professors and Tutors, and from eight hundred to one thousand of the Alumni of the College. Doubtless their friends and descendants will cheerfully contribute such information as may be necessary to illustrate the lives and services of the departed.

The subscriber desires every aid that may help to throw light upon the personal history of those concerned :—Obituary Notices ; Biographical Sketches, Epitaphs, Funeral Sermons, Newspaper Notices of election to important offices or stations, Business Cards and Advertisements ; also, copies of their Literary Works, Addresses, Sermons, Essays, Newspapers, engraved Portraits, &c. ; all of which will be deposited and preserved in an Alcove of the College Library, to be set apart for “ Graduates’ Works.”

He also requests that all future changes affecting the answers which shall be given, be made known to him from time to time :—especially the deaths of Graduates, and that the usual obituary notices or funeral sermons published on such occasions, be sent with the announcements, as it is his purpose to publish these deaths hereafter once a year.

JONATHAN PEARSON, *Librarian.*UNION COLLEGE, }  
SCHENECTADY, N. Y. }

## SPECIMENS OF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES FOR THE PROPOSED CATALOGUE.

John Glidden Brown was born in Quinipeck, N. Y., May 2, 1800 ; parents, James and Elizabeth (Glidden) Brown, who moved to Epsom, N. Y., in 1806. He was prepared for College at Helderbergh High School, under the instruction of Rev. Moses Johnson, and entered Union College Jan. 1817. He studied law with Hon. Septimus H. Smith, of Great Falls ; was admitted to the bar in 1821 ; and commenced the practice of law in Albany, with James S. Van Hoesen, Esq. In 1830 he moved to New-York City, which, thereafter, became his residence. He was Member of N. Y. Assembly 1832–5 ; State Senator 1836–8 ; Member of Congress 1839–41 ; and Judge of the Superior Court 1842–6. He died June 30, 1849, of cholera, aged 49 years. Besides occasional speeches, orations and opinions, he wrote a work on constitutional law, and edited the N. Y. State Papers. He received the Degree of L. L. D. from Hamilton College in 1846.

Joseph Henshaw Luther was born in Hanover, Mass., June 1, 1798 ; parents, Joseph and Madeline (Henshaw) Luther ; prepared for College at Yorkville Academy, John Almy, Esq., Principal ; and entered Union College Sept. 1814. He taught, 1818–20, in East Philadelphia, (Penn.) High School ; graduated at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1823 ; and was ordained Sept. 25, 1823, at Marbletown, N. Y. ; and was Pastor of the 1st Congregational Church of Haselton, Conn., 1825–30 ; Professor of Rhetoric in Erie College 1831–40 ; retired on account of ill health, and now resides in Philadelphia, Pa. He has published six sermons on various occasions ; a series of lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres, and the “ Communicant’s Companion.” He received the Degree of D. D. from the Hudson University in 1842.

Thomas Pennington Radway was born Feb. 23, 1778, in Benton, N. Y. ; parents, John Harmony and Mary (Pennington) Radway ; was prepared for College at High Holme School, Rev. Hanover Kelton, Principal ; entered Union College Sept. 1795 ; taught a few months in Suncook, Mass., in 1799 ; studied medicine with Dr. Jonas Physic and Dr. Abram Potecar, of Camermile ; attended medical lectures at the College of Surgeons and Physicians, and was admitted to, and commenced the practice of medicine in La Rhine, in 1806. He was Surgeon in the Army 1813–15, and returned to practice at Oldbury in 1815, where he has since resided. He lectured in the Fairhaven Medical School on Anatomy and Physiology, 1830–5, and has published several articles in the New-York Medical Review, and two larger works on the “ Functions of the Brain,” and on “ Gunshot Wounds.”

- N. B. 1. Let the answers to the following questions be as full and *authentic* as possible ; but when doubtful let them be marked thus (?).  
 2. When the person is deceased let some near relative or friend fill out the blanks to the best of his knowledge ; if he have but *one fact*, let that be sent.  
 3. Let as much time be taken as may be found necessary for this purpose, and no more.  
 4. In case this sheet be not sufficient to contain all the facts to be sent, add another of the *same size*, if possible, leaving an inner margin of not less than one inch for binding.  
 5. In cases where no answers to this circular shall be returned, the editor will be obliged to publish such names without any biographical notices, or to rely upon information, gathered from other sources, and, therefore, not always authentic.



XI. The important offices he has held, with dates; thus:—

[Surrogate of Jefferson Co., N. Y., 1839-41 and 1845-7; Member of Congress, 21st district, N. Y., 1841-43; Member of Assembly, of N. Y., 1821-4, &c., &c.]

*Member of assembly, 1839.  
Mayor of the city of Utica 1845*

XII. The Literary or Scientific Works he has written or edited.

[Copies are solicited for the "Graduates Alcove" in College Library.]

*None*

XIII. The names of his relatives who graduated at Union College.

*None*

XIV. The literary, professional, or honorary titles he received; from whence, with dates; thus:—

[M. D., from Albany Medical College 1845; or LL. D., Amherst College, 1850, &c.]

*None*

XV. Is there an engraved portrait of him?

[One or two copies, together with his autograph, are solicited for College Library.]

*None*

XVI. The date, circumstances, and place of his death.

[Send any printed notice, biographical sketch, funeral sermon, &c. In many instances more space will be required to answer this and the three following questions, in which case add an additional sheet.]

*He unites himself the answers  
to the foregoing questions.*

*March 24. 1855*



Ward Hunt

A.B.

1828



Ward Hunt

1828  
A.B.